

~~TOP SECRET~~

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June 11, 1951

Dear General Smith:

The Intelligence Area of the Department of State, in cooperation with other interested offices of the Department has been investigating for some time various aspects of the problem of Soviet vulnerability to various forms of political and psychological action directed toward the weakening or overthrow of the present regime. Other departments of the Government, as well as outside groups under Government auspices, have been carrying on similar investigations.

The Department of State feels that these several studies have contributed immeasurably to our understanding of the problem. Since, however, most of these studies were limited in scope to most specific problems and since all were based on a variety of sources of intelligence, the Department feels that the problem should now be made the subject of a National Intelligence Estimate. The various studies which have already been completed could, of course, be used by the IAC working group in the preparation of the National Estimate.

In view of the importance of this subject, and in view of the fact that certain political and psychological warfare plans directed against the present Soviet regime are in preparation and need intelligence support, the Department requests that the Estimate be prepared on an urgent basis and be completed not later than July 31. This request has been discussed with representatives of OPC and O/NE.

Sincerely yours,

Fisher Howe  
Acting

Lieutenant General Walter B. Smith,  
Director of Central Intelligence,  
Washington 25, D. C.

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